

Planned Giving Tip

July 2005

The Giving USA Report was recently released and the news is generally positive. Giving to charity in 2004 totaled \$248.52 billion, which is a 5% increase from 2003 (\$236.73 billion). Adjusted for inflation, giving rose by 2.3% - the first positive growth in inflation adjusted dollars since 2000.

Giving by individuals continues to account for the bulk of all charitable giving (75%). According to the report, individuals contributed \$187.92 billion, a 4% increase from the 2003 figure of \$180.58 billion. The report also shows that the relief efforts for the Southeast Asia tsunami had very little impact on charitable giving in 2004, accounting for an estimated one-half of one percent of all giving.

According to the report, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS received the most contributions by far - \$88.3 billion. That figure represents an increase of 4.4% from 2003. Giving to religious organizations makes up more than 1/3 (35.5%) of all estimated contributions in the U.S.

Other groups also fared well:

- Education: \$33.84 billion, an increase of 5.4% from 2003 - 13.6% of all giving
- Foundations: \$24 billion, an 11% increase from 2003 - 9.7% of all giving
- Health: \$21.95 billion, a 5.1% increase from 2003 - 8.8% of all giving
- Human services: \$19.17 billion, a 1.1% decrease from 2003 - 7.7% of all giving
- Arts, culture and humanities: \$13.99 billion, a 6.7% increase from 2003 - 5.6% of all giving
- Public-society benefit: \$12.96 billion, a 6.8% increase from 2003 - 5.2% of all giving
- Environmental/Animals: \$7.6 billion, a 7% increase from 2003 - 3.1% of all giving
- International affairs: \$5.3 billion, a 1.8% decrease from 2003 - 2.1% of all giving

MONTHLY BULLETIN MESSAGE

Do you have an IRA? If your family's needs are being met you may wish to include the parish as a beneficiary. Contact your IRA trustee and ask for change of beneficiary forms to include your parish as a recipient of your good stewardship.

Attached to this month's tip is the upcoming schedule for this fall's Parish Stewardship Campaign approved by Bishop Doran and coordinated by Bob Pfundstein, our Parish Stewardship Director.

Keep planting seeds!